



Utah Department of Health

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Divisions: Division of Community & Family Health Services
Division of Health Systems Improvement
Division of Health Care Financing
Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services

Full Time Employees: 918

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Mission Statement: To protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability, and premature death; assuring access to affordable, quality health care; and promoting healthy lifestyles.



Emerging Issues and Strategic Focus:

- The increasing cost of providing health insurance will remain a significant challenge to both businesses and individuals. The issue has great impact on both the quality of life and the economy of our state. The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) will be an integral part of the Governor's efforts to expand health insurance coverage to all Utah citizens.
- The nation is not yet fully prepared to respond to large-scale hazards, man-made or naturally occurring. As a result, UDOH will continue to invest time and resources in all-hazards preparedness.
- Emerging technologies will improve the department's capacity to conduct "real time" disease and health risk surveillance and reporting. This will provide the UDOH with the basis for making decisions based on the best scientific evidence and technology available.
- Electronic personal health records, medical records, and quality data reporting will help reduce health care costs, medical errors, and improve patient safety. The UDOH's "e-Health = Utah" program will play an important role in developing such records.
- Utah's growing and aging population will present new challenges to UDOH and the health care system. UDOH programs will need to ensure they can meet the demands of serving a growing population and help the private sector provide quality service to the aging population.
- Health care costs will be decreased over time as our citizens adopt healthier lifestyles today. Health promotion programs (nutrition, tobacco prevention and control, sexually transmitted diseases, cancer control, and chronic illness) will play a vital role in encouraging the population to adopt such lifestyles.



Economic Development

- Build the Unified State Laboratory (USL)
- Promote “e-Health = Utah”
- Identify and support Utah’s Safety Net Providers (clinics throughout the state who serve low-income individuals and families)



Quality of Life

- Expand health insurance coverage in Utah
- Expand health Insurance Coverage for Utah’s Children through SCHIP expansion
 - Develop and implement the Utah Health Insurance Exchange (UHIE) with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development
- Protect the public’s health
 - Establish the Governor’s Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Advisory Council and implement other recommendations of the Governor’s Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Task Force
 - Improve immunization rates
 - Reduce the rate of prescription drug deaths
 - Develop public health standards for methamphetamine site decontamination
- Prevent unnecessary disease and disability
 - Promote healthy weight in Utah
- Provide access to appropriate health care for select populations with special health care needs and/or economic and cultural barriers
 - Implement Utah Premium Partnership (UPP)
 - Continue to expand Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)



Education

- Prevent cervical cancer deaths in Utah through education and immunization
- Continue current ongoing efforts, including Gold Medal Schools, and workplace initiatives
- Provide outreach to all minority populations
- Promote access to services needed for children with special needs
- Formalize and sustain relationships with tribal communities



Governance

- Participate in the National Governor’s Association (NGA) Initiatives, including:
 - NGA State Alliance for e-Health
 - NGA Privacy Initiative
 - Patient Safety Initiative
- Collaborate with e-Health Partners, including:
 - Utah Health Information Network (UHIN)
 - Center for Excellence in Public Health Informatics
 - Help establish Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), Sichuan Province, China
 - Digital Health Commission
- Create the “Utah Partnership for Healthy Weight” to focus on statewide collaboration with public and private sector representatives to develop effective programs to reduce the prevalence of obesity
- Formalize and sustain relationships with tribal communities